Costly open sky policy

1416. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the Tribune of June 11, 1997 captioned "costly open sky policy"; and

(b) if so, how far the open sky policy has proved costly to Government?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Total outstanding dues pending recovery from private airlines are as under:—

Inland Air Travel Tax (IATT) (as on 1.7.1997)

Dues	Rs. 23.13 crores
Interest	Rs. 12.76 crores
Penalty	Rs. 15.40 crores
Total	Rs. 51.29 crores

Various charges, fees etc. of Airports Authority of India

(as on 31.5.1997)
Rs. 25.01 crores

Information on the amount outstanding recovery by the oil companies is being collected.

Proposal to decongest airport at Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai

1417. SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under its consideration to decongest airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai and allow foreign chartered flights to land at Agra, Jaipur, Varanasi and Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) whether any plan has been formulated to upgrade airports at Agra, Varanasi, Jaipur and Bangalore as international airports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Decongestion of international airports is a continuous process. Airports Authority of India has taken over slot allocation for both international and domestic flights so that the flights are segregated in such a manner to ease the congestion at airports. Apart from this, works relating to construction of new terminals and modification of existing terminals to handle additional traffic at Mumbai, Chennai and Delhi airports have been taken up and are in progress. Limited international charter flights are already operating from Agra, Jaipur, Varanasi and Bangalore airports.

(c) and (d) Agra, Varanasi, Jaipur and Bangalore airports already cater to limited international operations. Customs, Immigration and Health facilities are available at these airports. Expansion and modification of terminal building and extension of runway at Jaipur have been completed. Construction of new integrated international terminal building at Bangalore airport and expansion and modification of terminal building at Agra airport are expected to be completed in early 1998. Expansion proposal for Varanasi airport is at the planning stage.

Helicopter service from Guwahati to Shillong

1418. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the assured helicopter service would be operative from Guwahati to Shillong (Hemroi) Airport; and

(b) the proposed fare for the said services?